REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the amendments above and the following comments.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 3-5, 9 and 10 are allowable. In response, Applicants have made claims 3, 4, 9 and 10 independent (claim 5 was already dependent) and made the other claims dependent on these new claims as necessary. Also, Applicants have added new claims 15-18, which have the limitations of claim 2, but are dependent on claims 4, 5, 9 and 10, respectively. Applicants respectfully submit that the new claims do not introduce new matter. An early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

In view of these amendments, all other issues are moot. Although the claims not indicated as being allowable have been canceled, this has been done without prejudice, and Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the subject matter of the canceled claims in a divisional application.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the Examiner would be fully justified to reconsider and to withdraw all rejections. An early notice that the rejections have been reconsidered and withdrawn is, therefore, earnestly solicited.

Applicants believe that the foregoing constitutes a bona fide response to all outstanding objections and rejections.

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Applicants also believe that this application is in condition for immediate allowance. However, should any issue(s) of a minor nature remain, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned at telephone number (212) 808-0700 so that the issue(s) might be promptly resolved.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

NORRIS MCLAUGHLIN & MARCUS, P.A.

By _____

Mark D. Marin, Reg. No. 50,842
For Kurt G. Briscoe, Reg. No. 33,141
Attorney for Applicant(s)
875 Third Avenue - 18th Floor
New York, New York 10022
Phone: (212) 808-0700
Fax: (212) 808-0844

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